MAR 14 2020

PEI confirms first positive case of COVID-19

Prince Edward Island's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Heather Morrison has confirmed the first positive case of COVID-19 in the province, and urges Islanders to follow recommendations to limit the potential number of cases and spread of the virus.

The individual who tested positive for COVID-19 is a woman in her fifties living in Queens County who recently returned from cruise travel. She is experiencing mild symptoms and is doing well at home.

It is strongly recommended to that Islanders follow the advice of the Chief Public Health Office and:

- self-isolate for 14-days following out-of-country travel, whether experiencing symptoms or not. This includes teachers, students and health care workers.
- cancel all non-essential travel outside of country.
- reconsider attending social gatherings where a 2-meter distance between people is not possible, especially if elderly or immune-compromised people are present.

Dr. Morrison clarified that the recommendation to self-isolate for two weeks following out-of-country travel applies to individuals who have returned from travel effective March 8, 2020, onward.

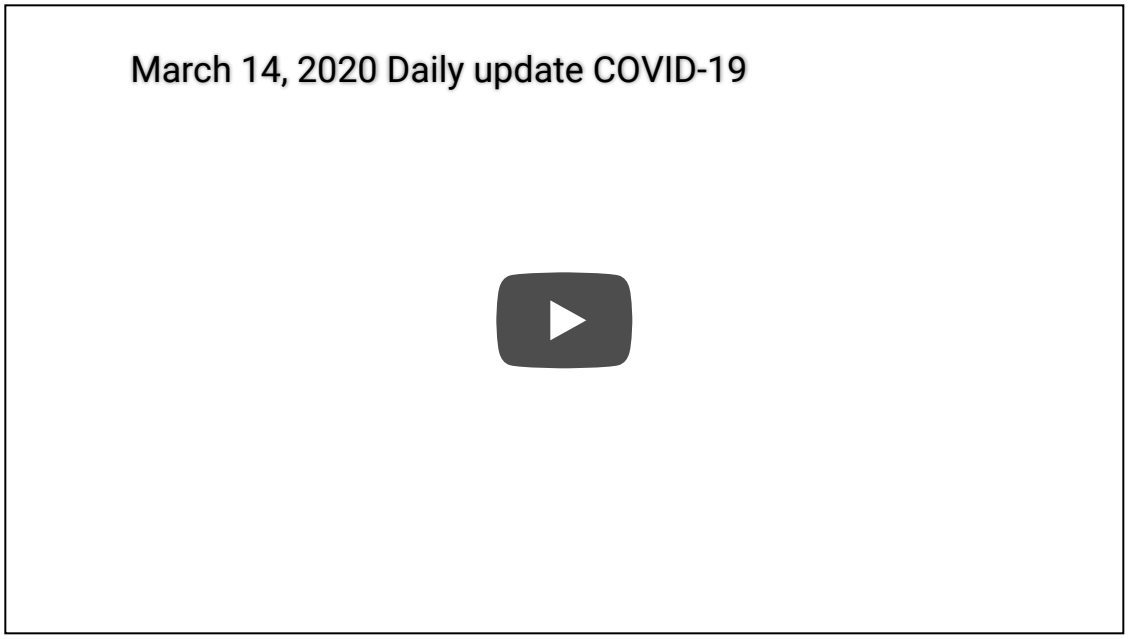
She also elaborated that essential travel means the movement of goods and the transportation of people across borders. This would apply to individuals such as truck drivers and airline crews. These individuals can continue their daily activities, including work; however, it is important that self-monitor daily. They should self-isolate and call 8-1-1 if they begin to experience symptoms.

If the person self-isolating is not showing symptoms, those living with them can continue daily activities as normal and follow good hygiene practices. If the person self-isolating is experiencing symptoms, those living with them should also self-isolate and monitor their symptoms until test results are confirmed.

Islanders with questions about COVID-19 should call PEI's toll-free information line at 1-800-958-6400. The information line is taking messages 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and Islanders who leave messages will receive a call back within 24 hours from the Chief Public Health Office.

Islanders experiencing symptoms (cough, fever, or shortness of breath) within 14 days after international travel should call 8-1-1 to be screened and, if necessary, directed for testing.

Those requiring immediate medical attention should call 9-1-1.



Watch Covid-19 update in YouTube

For answers to general questions about COVID-19, visit **www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19**.

Backgrounder:

The Chief Public Health Office continues to work closely with the federal government, provincial and territorial counterparts, government departments and Health PEI to continue to monitor the situation globally, nationally and locally. The public health risk of COVID-19 is continually reassessed and Islanders will be updated as new information becomes available.

Government's special situation response group also continues to work collaboratively with the Chief Public Health Office, stakeholders and community partners in preparing for all impacts related to COVID-19 to the province, including health, social and economic.

Everyone is encouraged to follow routine prevention measures:

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue
- If ill with acute respiratory symptoms, stay home if possible
- Limit touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Don't share items like drinking glasses and water bottles
- Frequently clean surfaces like taps, doorknobs and countertops

Media Contact:
Samantha Hughes
Health and Wellness
(902) 368-5610
shughes@gov.pe.ca